



*MY DAILY APPOINTMENT
WITH GOD*

the book of
PHILIPPIANS

*BY JOHN D. SNYDER
lead pastor
crossroads community church*

The Book of Philippians

For the next 2 weeks we will be discovering the book of Philippians together. Actually, we should call it the "Letter to the Christians in the city of Philippi." It was written by the apostle Paul and Timothy, his apprentice, was with him (see Philippians 1:1).

Paul originally was named Saul. He was once a Jewish leader (called a Pharisee) who persecuted people who believed Jesus was the Messiah - the Christ - or the "Anointed One" from God. He did not believe Jesus was God come in the flesh to die on the cross for our sins. He did not believe that Jesus rose from the dead. He saw Christianity as a heresy - a false religion. But in Acts 9 we read about how Jesus appeared to him and he realized he was wrong. In time, Saul changed from an adversary of Christ and he became a missionary for Christ! He also changed his name to Paul.

In fact, Paul was thrown into a Roman prison for being a Christian and preaching about Christ. He writes this letter from prison (possibly house arrest) to thank the people in Philippi for sending him a "care package" and to encourage them to continue to live for Christ.

The questions will be easier to answer if you read from a New International Version of the Bible, but any version you have will be okay.

My Appointment With God On Day 1

Philippians I:I-II

1. What title do Paul and Timothy give to themselves in verse 1? Why do you think they chose this title? Why is this significant?
2. What 3 groups do they say they are writing to? (verse 1) What is the significance of each group?
3. What 2 blessings from God does Paul wish on the Philippians? (verse 2) What does each mean to you?
4. What attitude does Paul have whenever he remembers the Philippians? (verse 3) Do you feel this way about any particular group of people? Why?
5. List at least 3 reasons why Paul feels joy when he remembers and prays for the Philippians. (verses 4-7)
6. What do you think it means to share a "partnership in the gospel?" List 3-5 ways people might have partnered with Paul, and 3-5 ways people can partner with the pastors at our church.
7. What promise is in verse 6, and how do you think it impacts your life?
8. List at least 4 things that Paul prays will happen in the lives of the Philippians. (verses 9-11)
9. Take time to pray for those same 4 things in your own life, then pray them for your pastors, family members, friends, co-workers and neighbor.

My Appointment With God On Day 2

Philippians 1:12-18

1. What is it that happened to Paul? (verse 13)
2. How had Paul's circumstances impacted the gospel? (verse 12) Why might this seem to be a strange result?
3. What do Paul's circumstances tell us about how God can bring good out of anything? (see Romans 8:28)
4. What 3 groups of people were influenced by Paul's imprisonment according to verses 13-14, and what impact was made on each group?
5. How would it affect you if your pastor was thrown in jail for preaching about Jesus? What would you do?
6. What two different motivations did others have to preach the gospel? (verses 15-17)
7. What does it mean to preach Christ "out of envy, rivalry and selfish ambition"? What kind of person would do this, and why?
8. What was the most important issue to Paul? (verse 18)
9. How hard would it be for you to have this kind of attitude about other people's actions if you knew they were trying to "stir up trouble" for you?
10. How important is it to you that people hear the gospel?

My Appointment With God On Day 3

Philippians 1:19-26

1. What 2 things did Paul believe would help him in his situation? (verse 19)
2. How confident are you that these two things can help you? What evidence is there in your life that you really believe these two things can help you?
3. How did Paul think the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the Philippians would help him? (verse 19) Why was this a big thing to believe in his situation?
4. What did Paul desperately NOT want to do? (verse 20)
5. How might Paul shame Christ in the situation he was in?
6. How might you bring shame to Christ in your daily life?
7. Fill in the blanks below, then write in your own words what each phrase means: (verse 21)
 - For me to live is _____
 - For me to die is _____
8. What did Paul believe would be the result if he kept living? (verse 22)
9. Why did Paul want to be with Christ? (verse 23)
10. Why did Paul believe God left him on earth? (verses 24-26)
11. Who benefits from your ongoing life, and how?
12. Pray that you will not bring shame to Christ's name by how you live, and that God will use you to bring joy and spiritual progress to the lives of others.

My Appointment With God On Day 4

Philippians 1:27-30

1. How did Paul want the Philippians to conduct themselves? (verse 27)
 - What do you think this means? (Write out at least 5 specific ways someone might do this.)

2. What 3 things did Paul want to know that the Philippian Christians were doing - whether he saw them face to face or not? (verses 27-28) (Write out what you think each phrase means.)
 - Stand _____
 - _____ as one man for the
 - Without being _____

3. What would their lack of fear communicate to those who opposed their Christian lives? (verse 28)
 - What do you think this means?

4. What two things were granted to the Philippian Christians? (verse 29)

5. How was Paul a true leader and role model to the Philippians? (verse 30)

6. Pray that God will help you be bold for him in your daily life.

My Appointment With God On Day 5

Philippians 2:1-4

1. Answer the following questions from verse 1.
 - What should give us encouragement, and why?
 - What should comfort us? How do you think it would?
 - Who should we have fellowship with? How do you think that should affect us?
 - What other two qualities should we have if Christ is in our lives?
2. Go back and review your answers from #1 and evaluate on a scale from 1-10 if they are a part of your life.
3. If the qualities found in verse 1 are a part of our lives, what 3 or 4 ways should we respond to other Christians - other people in our church? (verse 2)

Make my joy complete by...

...being _____

...having the _____

...being one in _____ and _____

4. Write below each phrase above what you think each means in a practical way.
5. What two attitudes should we try to eliminate from our actions? (verse 3)
 - How difficult is it for us to eliminate these attitudes, and why?
 - As a general rule, what percentage of actions do people do out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, in your opinion?
6. How should we treat others? (verses 3-4) How often do you do this?

My Appointment With God On Day 6

James 2:1-13

1. What attitude should we have as we deal with other people? (verse 5)
2. How does the challenge in verse 5 relate to what is written in verses 3-4?
3. What did Jesus not try to desperately cling to? (verse 6)
4. What 3 things did Jesus do to himself to show that the Father's glory and people's needs were important to him? (verse 7) (Write out what you think each phrase means.)
 -
 -
 -
5. What 3 things did Jesus do, once he was "found in appearance as a man"? (verse 8) (Write out, what each phrase means - and see Galatians 3:13 to understand the significance of the third phrase in this verse.)
 -
 -
 -
6. After Jesus humbled himself, what did God the Father do for him? (verse 9)
7. Look up James 4:6 and I Peter 5:6. How do these verses communicate that God will do a similar thing for us as he did for Christ?
8. What 2 specific things are every creature (without exception) to do at the name of Christ? (verses 10-11)
 - When did you first do this?
 - When was the last time you did this?
 - Take time to do it again right now!

My Appointment With God On Day 7

Philippians 2:12-18

1. What had the Philippian Christians "always" done? (verse 12)
 - How important is it for a Christian to obey Christ "always"?
 - How difficult is this for you?
 - Is there a specific area in your life you need to confess to and give over to Christ?
2. What are we to "work out," and how are we to work it out?
 - What do you think this phrase means?
 - How does I Peter 1:17-19 help you understand this phrase?
3. Does God work in us? (verse 13)
 - What does this mean?
 - How have you seen God do this to one degree or another in your life?
4. What are we to eliminate from our actions? (verse 14)
5. Why are we to eliminate grumbling and complaining? (v 14)
6. What two things will we be like if we don't grumble and complain? (verse 14)
7. What are we to hold out to the world? (verse 16)
 - How can we do this?
 - How badly does the world need us to do this?
8. How did the life of the Philippians reflect on Paul? (verse 16)
9. Who has God use you to help spiritually?

My Appointment With God On Day 8

Philippians 2:19-24

1. Answer the following questions from verse 19.
 - Who did Paul want to send to Philippi?
(See also Acts 16:1-5, 17:13-14, 18:5, 19:21-22, 20:1-5)
 - When did he want to send him?
 - Why did he want to send him?
 - Was this a selfish or healthy reason for Paul to send him?
2. Timothy had two major interests in mind that made him “like no one else.” What were those 2 interests? (verses 20-21)
 - Could this be said of you about any group of people in particular?
3. How had Timothy proved himself? (verse 22)
4. Have you ever served with anyone “in the work of the gospel?” Who was it, when, where and how?

If not - who could you serve with now - and how? (One of our pastors, one of our Care Pastors, as a Care Pastor, as a teacher or D-Group leader, etc.)
5. What did Paul want to do beyond sending Timothy to them? (verses 23-24)
 - How does this show a confidence in God and in the prayers of the Philippian Christians? (see Phil 1:13-14, 19)
6. Pray that God will make you a more godly person, like Timothy!

My Appointment With God On Day 9

Philippians 2:25-30

1. Answer the following questions from verse 25.
 - Who is Paul sending to the church in Philippi?
 - What 4 terms does Paul use to describe him? (Write in your own words what you think each term means.)
 - Is there anyone who would use any of these terms to describe you? If so, which term or terms and why? If not, why not?
 - Why had the Philippian Christians sent him to Paul in the first place?
2. Why was Epaphroditus distressed? (verse 26)
3. What happened to Epaphroditus, and how did Paul see God's hand on his life? (verse 27)
4. What did Paul say would be the two results that the people would feel when they saw Epaphroditus? (verse 28)
5. What 2 commands does Paul give in verse 29?
6. Why were they to honor him? (verse 30)
7. Have you ever risked your life for anything?
8. What would it mean for you to risk your life for the work of Christ?

My Appointment With God On Day 10

Philippians 3:1-11

1. What command does Paul give in verse 1, and what do you think it means? How would someone do this?

Many Jewish religious leaders who HAD become Christians were teaching Gentiles that they couldn't really become Christians until they were circumcised. At this time, that practice was done almost exclusively by Jewish people. Paul resented this teaching deeply because it implied that we have something to do with being saved. The truth is we are saved by Christ's death for us, not by any activities we involve ourselves in. Keep that in mind as you read verses 2-6.

2. What three activities are really more important to be involved in than being circumcised? (verse 3)
3. What 7 aspects of Paul's life does he list that he says would give him the right to "put his confidence in his flesh"? (verses 4-6)
4. Paul was born into some prestige and worked hard in life to gain more. What was his attitude now about all those things that gave him a prestigious position? (verses 7-8)
5. What was more important to Paul than anything? (verses 7-8)
 - How important is this to you? What would you give up to attain this?
6. What did Paul want to have from God that he could never achieve in his own power? (verse 9)
7. What 5 things did Paul want that are listed in verses 10-11?
8. Tell God how badly you want these things. Ask him to help you want them more!

My Appointment With God On Day II

Philippians 3:12-16

1. What had Paul not attained yet? (verse 12 - see verses 10-11)
2. What did Paul want to take hold of? (verse 12)
 - What do you think this meant for Paul?
 - What would this mean for you? What do you think Jesus took hold of you for? What will it take for you to be able to live out what Jesus took hold of you for?
3. What 2 things did Paul do so that he could eventually take hold of what Christ took hold of him for? (verse 13)
 - What did Paul have to forget? (see verses 4-6)
 - What do you have to let go of or forget to become all God wants you to become?
 - What did Paul press on toward? (verse 14) What do you think this means?
4. What does Paul say spiritually mature people should do, and again, what do you think he means by this? (verse 15)
5. What should we at least live up to? (verse 16)
6. What aspects of spiritual maturity have you already begun to make a pattern in your life? (i.e., church attendance, praying daily, memorizing verses, witnessing, serving in ministry...)
7. Make a commitment to God that you will not go backwards spiritually in these areas!

My Appointment With God On Day 12

Philippians 3:17-4:1

1. What did Paul leave with the Philippians that he is encouraging them to take advantage of? (verse 17)
 - Who has been or is a spiritual example to you? What do you do to this day because of their influence in your life?
 - Who do you influence spiritually? What aspects of your life could be an example or pattern for others to follow?
2. What upset Paul so much he cried about it? (verse 18)
 - Do you know anyone like this? How do they make you feel?
3. Fill in the blanks below from verse 19, and then write underneath each line what you believe the proper meaning is for each phrase.
 - Their destiny is _____
 - Their god is their _____
 - Their glory is their _____
 - Their mind is on _____
4. How well do the phrases in question 3 describe America? How should we protect ourselves from falling into this same kind of lifestyle?
5. List two reasons why our mind shouldn't be on earthly things. (verse 20)
6. What will Jesus do with us once he returns to take us home, and how will he be able to do this? (verse 21)
7. With all this in mind, what does Paul want the Philippian Christians to do? (4:1) How can we do this too?

My Appointment With God On Day 13

Philippians 4:2-9

1. What issue was Paul concerned about according to verse 2?
 - Does this still happen in churches today?
 - How might the challenges in chapter 2:1-4 have been addressed to this specific situation?
2. What had these 2 women done with Paul? (verse 3)
3. Where were the names of these women (and others) written? (see Revelation 20:12, 15, 27, Exodus 32:31-32, Daniel 12:1, Luke 10:20)
4. What command is given in verse 4? How does 3:1 add significance to this command?
5. What are we supposed to do if we are anxious? (verse 6)
6. What attitude are we supposed to have when we pray? (verse 6)
7. What will God give us if we bring our anxieties to him with a thankful attitude? (verse 7)
8. List the eight kinds of things we are to think about. (verse 8)
9. Now list what some of these kinds of things would be for you.
10. What kinds of activities were the Philippians to participate in? (verse 9)
11. Who can you imitate? Who are you an example to?
12. What promise does Paul leave them with in verse 9? How does this promise make you feel?

My Appointment With God On Day 14

Philippians 4:10-23

1. What brought Paul joy? (verse 10)
Remember, he was in prison as he wrote this.)
2. What had Paul learned according to verses 11-12?
 - How hard is this to learn?
 - What percentage of people in our society have learned this?
 - What will it take for you to learn this more?
3. What does Paul say he can do?
 - How important is it to keep verses 11-12 in mind when we look at verse 13?
4. How were the Christians in Philippi trend setters? (verses 14-16)
5. Giving seems to be an important way of showing faith in God, an important part of spreading the gospel, and an important way to encourage missionaries and pastors, so why do you think people get so upset when we talk about giving in church?
6. What did Paul say was even more important than him receiving a gift? (verse 17)
7. Paul is saying "thank you" in verse 18. What does he assure the Philippian Christians of in verse 19?
8. Do you believe verse 19 is a promise that you can claim to? I do, thank God for it and tell him what your needs are.
9. Now take time to ask God to help you learn contentment with what he has already given you - and thank him for it all!
10. What does verse 22 tell us had happened as a result of Paul being a prisoner in Caesar's household?